**Supply of low ash cooking coal to steel ! industries**

1995. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what are the steps that are being taken to meet the growing requirement of low ash coke for various steel industries, foundries and pig iron plants in the country;

(b) whether sufficient quantity of such coal is available in the country to produce sufficient coke for meeting the country's future demand in full; and

(c) what are Government's plants to meet the growing requirement of low ash coal and coke ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (c) Presently about 6.0 million tonnes of low ash coking coal is being imported by Steel Plants for blending with indigenous washed coal.

Some of the steps being taken to augment indigenous availability of coking coal for use in Iron & Steel Industries inter-alia include :

(i) increase in raw coking coal availability by reorganising existing mines and development of new mines;

(ii) restoration of coking coal sources which were delinked in 1984-85 from washeries on account of quality consideration and setting up of additional washery capacity to wash these coals;

(iii) commissioning of two new washeries one each at Madhuband & Kedia for increasing the existing washing capacity;

(iv) modification of the existing coking coal washeries by implementation of recommendations of the Alte-kar Committee to improve the capacity utilisation as well as the quality of washed coking coal;

(v) coking coal mines in Meghalaya & Assam are being identified to make available increased quantities of low ash coking coal.

With the implementation of these steps the import of coking coal by the Steel Plants is likely to come down progressively.

**World Bank Assistance For Coal Projects**

1996. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any coal projects being assisted by World Bank; and (b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) and (b) For the undermentioned coal projects World Bank loans are available :—

| Project/company | Loan amount (US $ million) |
|---|---|
| (i) Sonepur Bazari ECL | 114.80 |
| (ii) Jharia Coking Coal Project, VCCL (Block II OCP) | 57.70 |
| (iii) Dudhichua OCP, NCL | 109.00 |
| (iv) Gevra OCP, SECL | 65.20 |